

Snowmobile Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
Bangor – DACF Conference Room
October 23, 2014
8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Participants

Council Members:

Marie Candeloro, Chair, Kokadjo Roach Riders
Terry Hill, Co-Chair, Bowlin-Matagamon S.C.
Jim Yearwood, Northern Outdoors S.C. - The Forks
Frank Clukey, E. Millinocket, Millinocket, Medway Recreation
John Monk, MSA
Steve Edwards, Birch Point Lodge
Gordon Gamble, Wagner Forest Management
Bob Hansen, MSA

Guests:

Bob Meyers, MSA

Off-road Recreational Vehicle Office Staff:

Tom Morrison, Acting Director, Bureau of Parks and Lands, Clerk of the Board
Scott Ramsay, Director, Off-road Recreational Vehicle Office
Joe Higgins, Snowmobile Club Grant Coordinator, Off-road Recreational Vehicle Office
Lana LaPlant-Ellis, Senior Planner, Off-road Recreational Vehicle Office

Tom Morrison started the meeting at 8:40 AM and handed it over to Marie Candeloro, Chairperson. She began by reviewing the draft minutes from the August 22nd meeting.

Frank Clukey made a motion to accept the August 22nd minutes, Gordon Gamble seconded. Vote: 8 in favor- unanimous – motion carries.

Next item on the agenda is the election of Chair and Co-chair.

Steve Edwards made a motion to nominate Marie Candeloro as Chair and Terry Hill as Co-chair, Frank Clukey seconded. Vote: 8 in favor – unanimous – motion carries.

The next agenda item involves the Disaster Relief Grant Draft Rules, Application and Scoring Process.

Steve Edwards started the conversation by noting that Linneus is in need of a bridge replacement and under the current draft rules they would not be eligible because their trail is not ITS. Although he voted to include only ITS trail in the Disaster Relief Grant Draft Rules, he now has reconsidered his decision and would like to have the Council reconsider to include all funded trails. He doesn't want to come to a point where we shut clubs out of the grant process. Marie noted that she voted against strictly ITS and is still against it.

Frank Clukey made the motion to remove the reference to “ITS” in Section 4, paragraph 1 and replace it with “funded”. John Monk seconded. Vote: 8 in favor – unanimous – motion carries.

Discussion continued about establishing criteria for awarding grants and that the project would have to rise to some level of importance to make the cut. Scott indicated that the office would put together a set of criteria for the Council to review. Terry did not think that the entire Council needs to review the applications. Frank Clukey agreed with Terry that the Department has done a good job. John Monk echoes Frank and Terry and would like to have MSA Trails Committee included in the review. Marie suggested that a small review committee could be established. Bob thought this would provide cover for the Department. Scott didn't see it taking a lot of time to review as any big weather events would be covered by FEMA money and these would be more localized events.

Frank Clukey made a motion to add a number 2 under Section 4 to state “Awards will be based on established criteria”. Gordon Gamble seconded. Vote: 8 in favor – unanimous – motion carries.

Discussion turned to the second sentence in Section 7. Does this mean that all the money has to be exhausted from the fund every year? What if we receive projects that we don't feel should be funded. Do we need to fund them, if we have money in the grant fund?

Frank Clukey made the motion to eliminate the last sentence in Section 7 “When the disaster relief program funds are exhausted for the year, awarding of grants will cease.” Gordon Gamble seconded. Vote: 8 in favor – unanimous – motion carries.

This lead back to Section 4 and the suggestion that language should be added stating that “All applications may not be funded”.

Gordon Gamble made a motion to add “All applications may not be funded” to Section 4, number 2. Frank Clukey seconded. Vote: 8 in favor – unanimous – motion carries.

Marie asked about the timeline. When the work needs to be completed? Gordon thought anytime. Joe thought we might want to give the club so many days after their application was approved to get the work done. Tom asked if there was a problem saying one year? It was decided to leave the language in Section 6 alone for now. We can review once the grant program has been implemented.

Tom wanted to go back to Terry's concern about the entire council reviewing the applications. Frank Clukey felt the wording should be general on who reviews the application. Scott asked if it was better if we said applications will be provided to the Council to recommend up or down? It was recommended that under Section 5, paragraph 2 that “by the Snowmobile Advisory Council” be removed.

Next agenda item is to discuss the Capital Equipment Grant review criteria and application.

Terry suggested we go through each question one by one.

Marie asked if there were any concerns with:

- #1? Club participation in CEG program - Does this include drags? Yes. This question is OK.
- #2. Equipment Owned - OK separate to #2a. and #2b. and add 0-10 points to 2b.
- #3 Equipment Replaced - and the word “power” to Equipment Replacement.
- #4 Disposition of Equipment Sold - eliminate
- #5 Trails Groomed - eliminate

- #6 Groomer Operators certified - is OK
- #7 Weeks of Grooming - add "average over the past 5 years
- #8 Insurance - eliminate
- #9 Groomer Storage - eliminate winter and change the summer points to 10 if undercover and 0 if outside
- #10 GPSed Trail System - make this a yes or no question. If current trails are GPSed Yes – 15 points if No – 0 points
- #11 Support Letters – eliminate
- #12 Equipment Purchase – eliminate points. Right equipment for their system?
- #13 Already Purchased Equipment – remove on order – 3 points, keep Purchased – 0 points and Not yet – 5 points
- #14 Economic Viability – eliminate
- #15 Origin of Used Equipment – eliminate
- #16 Cost of Equipment – OK
- #17 Retention – eliminate

John Monk would like to see a cap for a max cost of a groomer at \$200,000. The Council agreed. This will be added to the draft Capital Equipment Grant Rule.

Scott moved on to the next agenda item – special municipal grants. He asked if the Council wanted to be intimately involved in every request that comes in for special projects? Last year you approved \$40,000. This year we have \$27,000 worth of requests. Terry said she does not want to be involved and that the Department is doing a good job. Frank agreed. Bob Meyers said as long as the Department discloses in a list of who got what and what for. Scott agreed to share with the Council who we gave a little extra money.

Discussion started concerning the percentage of funding for the CEG. Frank suggested 40% cap that would be decided on a yearly basis.

Frank made the motion to include language in the rule that establishes a % cap on a yearly basis. Terry seconded. Vote: 8 unanimous – motion carries.

Information Sharing:

Marie – Route 66 will be opened to Kineo this year.

Terry – Candice Pinkham is trying to get the snowmobile license plate initiative going. If they do not reach their goal, the money will be divided up equally between all the snowmobile clubs in Maine.

Gordon – Sustainable Forests is going to build and raffle off another ice shack. The money raised will go to the fisheries improvement crossings.

Terry – we need to put the discussion of funding on our next agenda. By horsepower? Trail pass, licenses? Increase fees.

Bob – might look at appropriating some general fund money.

Next meeting - TBA via email.

Adjourn – 12:00